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WASHINGTON, D. C.

For the National Era.

THE SONG OF THE MOCKING BIRD.

BY MARY IRVING.

I live in the land of the Sun,

Where the bright beams of blossoms are born;

Where the sweetest of winds ever blow,

Springing up from the sandals of Morn.

I've built, in the greenest of groves,

A nest for my love and my mate;

No footstep nor stir of wrong ever roves

To the stony Magnolia tree.

I mock, in the market of men,

All day, when the fowls are asleep;

I echo the outburst of laughter—again,

I mimic the moaning of woe.

I chirp with the carolling lark—

And with the silver-throated thrush;

And the plaintive wail from the darkness

To the repeat of his harrowing howl.

At night, when the lamb is at fold,

And the wind of the wren is at rest,

On the tide of the moonbeaming, misty and cold,

I pour all the tide of my breast.

The Nightingale sings, and she—

The Rose is her lover, they say;

I seek not a rose-bud to listen to me,

Nor fly to my lover's bed.

I sing to the spirits that sob

In the chambers where kindest sleep

Is kindling her hair on the bosoms that sleep,

And sealing the eyelids that weep.

The tide of the dewy moonbeams

Drifts onward the tears of the bird;

I sing to the tears of the earliest dawn,

A song that the Sun never heard!

I sing to the solemn-eyed stars,

That hang in the morning of time;

Oh! blessed Night, when no world-babel jars

Their ceaseless earthly chime!

I sing to the ear of my God,

A tone taught to Eden's young maid;

When angels first wailed of Paradise lost,

The pathos of penitent prayer!

There haunts not a cruel-rod heart,

But I touch its tenderest strings;

When I teach its tenderest strings,

When I teach its tenderest strings.

For the National Era.

A LAMP FROM LIFE.

How often have I gazed, with pleasure,

On the face which rested that peculiarly bright,

Yet quiet expression, which nothing else in life

Can give, but a happy love. There is no longer

The remembrance of her whose affections are still

Wandering about in the world, and who has been

There may be yet a thousand places for her to

make—she may be still ignorant of the place

of her future home—she may anticipate a

glance alone as light in the world, and who has been

No skillful physiognomist need fear a

moment in reading the countenance of a true

friendship that understood her character

the prevailing element of which was sweetness;

and I did not know her with the intimacy of

true communion, till grief had entered her

heart, and was performing life with fidelity

the silent work of the destroyer.

Day by day, I saw her happy, and I knew

what the world knew, that she was

engaged to Robert Smith; and all who knew

him said he was a noble, high-minded man;

worthy of Amelia. He had not wealth, but the

ambition and energy which insure the attain-

ment of greatness; and many and warm were the

congratulations they received, as the bright

prospect opened before them.

How often have I found her reading a letter,

and from whom she would smile, and who would

sigh; but I had only that brief glimpse of her

sorrow, as she would lift the lid of a beautiful

papier mache box—his gift—and there were

depressed by the key, and there were

hope springing up again, and she would feel sure

that time would not forget the mystery, and would

be right—that is, as her heart would tell.

I shall follow him to those sunny hours!

It is possible for you, though impossible for her,

I heard it from his lips, and therefore it must

be true.

He is not alone, there is one who talks and

walks and reads with him, and with whom he

thinks it no harm to talk, to walk, and read;

for she only wishes for intellectual companionship.

Her words, which are very becoming, con-

tain strikingly her delicate complexion;

but he has not learned to read those dark eyes,

or he would see something more than intellect

in their unaltered places. She knows he has

left his heart far away in a northern clime,

and talks to him freely of his beloved one, and

also of her own desolation—her heart is in the

grave.

Ah, man is not alone the seducer—woman

is not alone the victim!

He has fallen; but his family are among the

proud and aristocratic—disgrace must not fall

on them. He has been true and wronged, and

must make the only reparation now left, to re-

deem the daughter of the house from infamy!

For Amelia, there was no longer the peace

of the affection; the letters ceased, but she would

explain; and at length hope died; but she

would not give up life. No enigma

passed her lips, and no murmur was heard from

her sinking spirit.

Day after day the bloom faded from her cheeks,

and sorrow was written upon her brow. I

knew she would die, for her mind was not one

that could be diverted by amusement, or find

employment by concealing being almost as sure

of death as the sun. When there was no longer any object for her

affection, life was without interest, and there

was nothing to preserve even physical strength.

She could not endure the thought of mis-

ingling again with the thoughtless, for her deli-

cate nature would shrink from the look of pity,

and would wither beneath the look of scorn;

and well she knew that both would be directed

towards her—being almost as sure of death as

the sun. The end was not far off, and she

marked degradation as sin and shame, in vulgar

minds—the enigma would rejoice, and the

malicious triumph.

I know that she had only a little while to

live, and I wrote to Robert Smith—a reproach-

ful letter, such as I thought one deserved who

had thus trifled with and trampled upon such

a heart.

He answered it; but he did not try to palliate

his guilt. He was married, and silence was

his duty; now, and any expression of sym-

pathy or regret would be only mockery.

I prepared the way for conveying this know-

ing to Amelia, as well as I could, knowing

that I could not often in any way, so that it

would not prove the death-blow, yet still think-

ing it best not to withhold the stroke.

The fountain of her tears long lay dry, and

I hoped this would bid them gush forth

again. I even dared to hope that something

like scorn and hatred might be fostered in her

heart, and that she would find in the world

or passion has existed; but anything like revenge

or wish to injure, can never occupy the place

true love has once usurped in a noble heart.

She had lingered through the summer, and

faded with the flowers, yet she was not con-

scious of her fate; and every day I read to her,

and brought her garlands from the wood—those

wild vines and blossoms which she had so loved

and which she had so often gathered with her

hope of again enjoying the pleasures of life;

but this she did not desire; she had put her

trust in Heaven, and would talk of her re-

conciliation to life, and the hope of being useful,

if God saw fit to keep her yet a little longer in

the world; but death was the messenger she

longed to meet, and she did not doubt of hap-

piness in Heaven.

The few hours I passed so deep for the world

to heal—she could not recover from such a

shock. But I had no idea she was so near her

end, and day after day put off repeating what

I knew must break the link that bound her

to earth. If I had reflected, I should have

deeply, I should have withheld it.

It was one of those delicious Indian summer

evenings, when even the invalid needed not to

shun the open air; and the golden glow of

For the National Era.

THE HOUSE-KEEPING.

BY MARY IRVING.

DEAR FRIEND: We took possession of our little

rooms in great glee. The novelty of our

elevated nest, above the thronging life of Paris—

the comfort gathered in every little knick-knack—

the taste evident in everything—the quiet, in

such contrast with the noise and bustle of the

city, made me think for the moment we were at

home. I have lived to learn better. The word

home is an English word, and has an English

meaning. It is not a French word, and has not

the same meaning. It is not a word of comfort,

of exclusion, of sacrosanctness, all con-

tained in that word of home, memory, and hap-

piness, have no existence here, even in imagi-

nation, and would be as applicable to French

lodgings as to a sanctuary. But they will

keep out the sun, the rain, and the wind (in-

different), but they keep in nothing—not in-

ter temple, where the hearthstone is an altar,

and the household gods are treasured up as

sacred from common eyes. Our gay Parisians

want only a corner in life to sleep; the bal-

ance of doing incident to life are gotten up in

the open air. A Parisian party in the

street, a breakfast of supper on the sidewalk,

with the great world streaming by, an after-

noon or an evening in the Boulevard, Tuileries

these are the makings-up of every-day

life. An American housewife, with her

wife, children, and relations, he lives

merrily or in stupid grandeur. The stranger

must sound a parley, sometimes on the outside,

before the door is opened, and the French, the

housewife, with the French, the housewife

is a stranger, and the only way to avoid the

intruding stranger is, to evacuate yourself.

Of course, the French, the housewife, with

provision is made for our little life, and

I am to write it—our happiness.

We employed a domestic who came to us

with an armful of recommendations. She

could not command her own room, but she

followed our removal, and we had two

days to dispose of in the meanwhile. Mrs. T.

came to see us two hours after the baggage

was deposited on the floor, and treated me to

a meaning smile, in relation to our child-like

rejoicings over my new apartments.

I hope you will find them all you antici-

pated; said, "but, I have lived several

years in Paris, and I know what a house-

wife should be. Our ideas of com-

fort are so entirely different from those of the

people, that to find them gratified is out of the

question." Four disturbed snorers.

This was said so solemnly, and with such

a meaning smile, in relation to our child-like

rejoicings over my new apartments. I found words

to ask a reason for this abrupt conclusion.

"All chimneys in Paris," she said, "are

made to be lit. I have seen a housewife

before us, and she was lit. I have seen a

housewife before us, and she was lit. I have

seen a housewife before us, and she was lit.

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housewife before us, and she was lit. I have

without fail, in ten minutes. As our cook

could not come for two days, our first propo-

sition was to have her replaced by a French

Café de France; but the coffee-pot was elevated

to the ceiling, and the coffee-pot was elevated

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Mr. H. B. Knight has been appointed publishing agent of the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, in place of J. B. Bates, resigned; and also the authorized agent of the Era for the city of New York, and may be found at No. 43 Beekman street.

Post & Co., Periodical Agents, Third street, near Main, Cincinnati, are authorized to receive subscriptions for the Era. Single copies of the paper may be had of them at all times.

Mr. Caleb A. Wall is our authorized agent for Worcester, Mass.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1853.

PROSPECTUS OF THE EIGHTH VOLUME OF THE NATIONAL ERA.

A. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
JOHN G. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The National Era is a weekly newspaper, devoted to Literature and Politics.

In Literature, it aims to unite the Beautiful with the True, and to make both immediately subservient to the practical purposes of every-day life.

In Politics, it advocates the Rights of Man, and the Equality of Rights, and opposes whatever violates or tends to violate them, whether this be involuntary Personal Servitude, Child Prostitution, Spiritual Abandonment, Class Legislation, the Selfishness of Capital, the Tyranny of Combination, the Oppression of a Majority, or the Exactions of a Party.

It holds no fellowship with the Whig and Democratic organizations, believing that the main issues on which they have been arrayed against each other are obsolete or settled, and that they are now chiefly used by the Sectional Interest of Slavery, to impair the love of Liberty natural to the American mind, and to subjugate the American People to its rule. Disclaiming all connection with them, it yet sympathizes with those of their adherents who are honestly seeking through them to advance the substantial interests of the country, although it must believe that they have not chosen the better way.

It is a supporter of the Independent Democracy, which holds that the Truth of the Declaration of Independence are practical, that in their light the Constitution of the United States is to be interpreted, that to them the laws and institutions and usages of the country should be conformed—a Party, whose motto is, Union, not for the sake of Union, but for the sake of Freedom and Progress; and Law, not for the sake of Law, but for the Protection of Human Rights and Interests—the only source of foundation of order and concord.

In no sense is it the organ of a Party, or a mere Party Paper, but absolutely "free and independent," claiming to speak "by authority" for nobody except its editor, and recognizing no authority in any quarter to prescribe its course and policy.

The Eighth Volume of the Era will commence on the first of January ensuing, and be enlarged by the addition of four columns. We have neglected no means that could promise to make it an agreeable companion for the Household, and an efficient coadjutor to the enlightening of Politician. It has secured able correspondents at home and abroad, and no journal in the country can surpass the Era as it respects contributors to its Literary Department.

The Era publishes condensed reports of the proceedings of Congress, explains movements in that body, the causes of which do not always lie upon the surface, and from its position is enabled to keep a constant watch upon the action of all the Federal Government in relation to all questions at issue between Liberty and Slavery.

The only journal at the seat of the Federal Government, representing the Anti-Slavery Sentiment of the Republic, while the Pro-Slavery Sentiment is represented here by four daily papers, nearly all of them being largely sustained by Governmental patronage, it asks the support of all who believe, in sincerity, that the Union was formed to secure the blessings of Liberty, and not to perpetuate the curse of Slavery.

Payment in advance is invariably required. To prevent annoyance and loss to ourselves and readers, to preserve their files unbroken, and to enable us to know how large an edition of the paper to issue, all subscriptions should be renewed before they expire. We have no credit-subscribers on our books.

TERMS. Single copy - \$2
Three copies - 5
Five copies - 8
Ten copies - 15
Single copy six months - 8
Ten copies six months - 15

These are the terms for both old and new subscribers, forwarding their own subscriptions.

AGENTS. Agents are entitled to fifty cents on each new yearly subscriber, and twenty-five cents on each renewed subscriber—except in the case of clubs.

A club of three subscribers, one of whom may be an old one, at \$5, will entitle the person making it up to five copies of the Era for three months; a club of five, two of whom may be old ones, at \$8, to six copies for six months; a club of ten, five of whom may be old ones, at \$15, to a copy for one year.

When a club of subscribers has been forwarded, additions may be made to it, on the same terms.

Money to be forwarded by mail at our risk. Large amounts may be remitted in drafts or certificates of deposit. When money is sent, notes on the Banks of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, or Baltimore, are preferred. New England notes are at less discount than New York State notes, and those less than Western notes.

P. S. Newspapers friendly to our enterprise will please notice or publish our Prospectus, as they may see proper.

We have not time or room this week for any comments on the President's Message.

Life of subscribers, whose times expire before the close of the year, at the offices where we have large subscriptions, have been sent to our agents. We hope they will receive due attention.

We are under great obligations to many of our friends for their active efforts to keep up and extend our circulation. Back numbers can be furnished, to complete lists that may have been interrupted.

THE SAKON SERP.—The fourth chapter of the Saxon Serp was received this week, too late for insertion. It will appear next week. We hope the author will keep us furnished a little in advance.

BELL SMITH.—A sixth letter appears in this week's Era, from Bell Smith. Her letters are unique, and will give the reader as clear an insight into Parisian life as if he were on the spot, looking at it with his own eyes.

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY.—Our readers understand, by this time, that we do not endorse all we publish, although we may not think it worth while to accompany it with a disclaimer. For example, we gave place last week to an excellent-tempered communication from our respected friend, Benjamin Coates, without remark, just as we allow our friend, Mr. Goodell, to present his peculiar views of

the "Legal Tenure of Slavery," without controverting them. Our readers know our opinions so well, that they can hardly misapprehend them, and we have so much confidence in their good sense that we are not afraid to submit to them, without comment, views not in accordance with our own.

OUR EXCHANGE LIST is so overgrown that we are compelled to cut it down. We cannot afford, of course, to exchange with a thousand or two papers. Some editors print a short prospectus, which was intended for the use of our voluntary agents; they print this, in some obscure corner, and without even calling attention to it, and then claim an exchange. As we have never requested them to do anything of the sort, they will please excuse us for not complying with the request.

The Prospectus for general use has been standing in the Era for two or three weeks. By publishing this, so that it will attract attention, or by giving such an abstract and notice of it as shall bring the Era fairly before their readers, they will entitle themselves to an exchange. We do not ask this, for we are desirous to keep our exchanges within moderate limits; but if they choose to do so, we shall recognize their claim to the Era for one year. Some publishers prefer to pay a difference of one dollar on the exchange.

We intend nothing offensive to any of our contemporaries, nor would we intimate that the Era is superior in merit to their papers; but their own experience will show them the necessity of facing some limitation upon these editorial courtesies.

TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

According to custom, we send a number of the Era to every member of Congress, simply to remind him that there is such a paper at the Capital, so that he may order it, or not, as he pleases. It is the only number that will be sent without being ordered.

A very interesting exposition of the recent Election in Massachusetts is laid out for our next.

"AFRICANIZATION OF CUBA."

The Washington Union persists in its clamor about the proposed Africanization of Cuba. Why does it not furnish the Public with the evidence on the strength of which it asserts the existence of such a project? It has intelligence, it says, from those who know, in Havana. The People cannot take its word for that. Who are these knowing people? Are they impartial, disinterested witnesses? Have they no interest in keeping up an excitement favorable to "filibustering"? Have they nothing to gain by revolutionizing Cuba, or by its annexation? Have they no concern in the propagation of Slavery? If the American Consul at Havana, a pro-slavery man, has anything authentic to communicate, or has communicated any important information to our Government, let it be laid before Congress, that we may see precisely what is its nature and import.

When the Union first put this story afloat, we attached little credit to it, and we have seen nothing to change our opinion. Its implication of Great Britain in the supposed plot, has been pronounced groundless by Mr. Crampton, and the London Times, in a recent article, exposes the gross absurdity of the charge. When called upon for its proof, it had none to give, except that participation in such a plot was quite in character with the British Government, but so secret was her policy, no positive evidence could be produced on the subject! Such a confession as this, showing that "the organ" had been laboring under a hallucination in relation to the position of Great Britain in the plot, naturally led the Public to believe that "the plot" was all a fiction, which the Union had imposed upon itself as a reality, or was seeking to impose upon others for a sinister purpose. As a specimen of the kind of evidence which it relies upon to sustain its assertion of the existence of a scheme to import Africans as apprentices into Cuba, with a view to Africanizing the island, take the following. A Spanish opposition paper, finding fault with the cordial reception given to Mr. Soule by the Spanish Government, waxes hot against the aggressive Anglo-Americans, and exclaims, let the haughty Republic understand that "Cuba must be Spanish or African, never American." Proof conclusive, cries the Union, that all we have said of the conspiracy to Africanize Cuba is true! It will puzzle a sane mind to find "proof conclusive" of anything in newspaper demagoguery; but suppose it be taken as an exponent of Spanish feeling—what then? What is the purpose of such language? Nothing new or startling; it simply means that Spain, should the United States attempt to deprive her of her richest colony, should at once free and arm the slaves, so as, in any event, and at any cost, to prevent the island from becoming American. Is there anything novel in such an idea? Do we not all know that such will in all likelihood be the last resort of Spain, if we drive her to extremities? Have we not always been forewarned of this? But what is there in it to prove the existence of a scheme for importing into Cuba, yearly, ten thousand African apprentices, for the purpose of giving the island up to African possession at the end of fifty years?

The London Times remarks that "one of the most extraordinary features of the American character is, that their vaunted and undoubted shrewdness wholly deserts them when they come to estimate what they are to expect from another country." It gives the Union and the Administration credit for believing in this ridiculous scheme of apprenticeship, wherein its own shrewdness is at fault. The policy of the "organ" and of the Administration, we presume, is, to keep open the way for the annexation of Cuba to this country, and so to predispose public opinion among us in favor of it, that the first auspicious moment for consummating the measure may not be lost. But they propose the acquisition as a *devolving territory*—ere it is non-slaveholding, they would be as hostile to the policy as they are now favorable. Hence, they are jealous of any measure or influence tending to promote Emancipation, and neglect no means calculated to counteract them. Now, if it will be known that the British Government has intimate relations with Spain—that it has been giving it a right to interfere for the prevention of slave importation into Cuba, and for the liberation of slaves conveyed into the island in violation of treaty stipulations—that on the score both of humanity and policy it is deeply interested in the substitution of free labor for slave labor throughout the West Indies—and that its influence has been and will be used, on all favorable occasions, to influence the Spanish Government to the policy of Emancipation. Should it succeed, the acquisition of Cuba would cease to be a desirable object to the slaveholding section of the Union, although it would be far more inviting to the non-slaveholding States. The policy of Emancipation must, then, be thwarted. To attempt this openly, would not be well received by a majority of the American People; to assign the British Government for endeavoring to promote the abolition of slavery in the colonies of its allies, and to denounce it

for this, also, would seem out of character for the Administration of a Republic founded upon the doctrine of Human Rights. The requisite amount of indignation against Great Britain could not be manufactured in this way, nor could the public mind be enlisted against the humane policy of abolition. What was to be done? The English Government must be represented as hostile to our progress, as plotting to arrest our territorial expansion, and as resorting, for this purpose, to the diabolical scheme of importing ten-year apprentices into Cuba, so as to prevent, by its Africanization, its Americanization! What American would tolerate such intermeddling as this?—would permit this arrogant and selfish Power thus to plot against our growth and destiny? What philanthropist would not be shocked at such a scheme, so infamous, so wicked of its interests to the children of Africa, and of the rights of the white race in Cuba—a scheme no better than the slave trade itself! The Philanthropy and Patriotism of the American People might thus be aroused against Great Britain, and enlisted in the support of whatever expedients the Administration might find necessary to check foreign intervention in favor of Emancipation, to keep Cuba in a safe condition for annexation, and to favor the progress of this policy.

This would seem to be the philosophy of the course pursued by the Union, and the Administration of which it is "the organ," in relation to the fanciful scheme of the Africanization of Cuba. And now, we put the question to our countrymen, Will you verify the somewhat epigrammatic remark of the London Times, in reference to Americans, "that their vaunted and undoubted shrewdness wholly deserts them when they come to estimate what they are to expect from another country?" That against which the Washington Union would really array them, is not the Africanization but the Emancipation of Cuba.

THE ADMINISTRATION AND CUBAN AFFAIRS.

The Union publishes a private letter from "an intelligent gentleman residing in Cuba," respecting the movements in that island, on the part of the British and Spanish Governments, concerning Slavery. It is written in reply to the editor of the Union, or some one else, who wished to circulate the British Government, as may be inferred from its opening paragraph: "I have only time to brief you on your request, as, hoping that you may find them of some use." He proceeds to say that the treaty of 1817, for the suppression of the slave trade, was found inefficient, chiefly on account of the absence of any penal clause—that at the urgent solicitation of England, Spain, after a thorough consideration of the whole subject, was induced to agree to the law and treaty of 1835, which provided penalties for their infraction, but prohibited interference after the slaves had once been landed, and disposed of to the planters. The letter-writer objects to the mildness of the penalties, but justifies the prohibition—

"First, because the convenience or inefficiency of her agents should not be relied upon to carry out the law; secondly, because such an investigation, once commenced, would soon discover the whole slave property to be fraudulent, and would lead to the complete emancipation of the island. Thirdly, because the court could not help being conscious of its inability to stop the trade, whenever it really desired to do so. And fourthly, because the consequences of the legal cases and their number would be excitement, insubordination, and insurrectionary movements. I can, therefore, understand the reason, justice, and expediency of stopping all investigation and persecution of slaves recently imported on the soil of Cuba; but I never could understand the justification of the leniency in the same law towards the infractor, the speculator, the shipowner, and the commander of the ship in the improved trade."

This is altogether a one-sided view of the case. The planters knew very well who were the fresh Africans, that in purchasing them of the traders they were aiding and abetting in the violation of the law and the treaty, for it was the market they opened that was at the bottom of the mischief. They were just as guilty as their agents, the traders and importers.

The British Government persisted in urging upon the Spanish Government the necessity of rigidly observing the treaty, and Spain issued more positive instructions to its Captain General. The Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs remarked—

"In consequence of the peremptory instructions lately sent to the Captain General of Cuba, that he should omit no effort in bringing to an end the slave trade, he has always been despatched from that functionary, assuring us that he was putting in practice the most strenuous measures to carry into effect his instructions; and he adds, that finding that the execution of the strict letter of the law embarrassed him in this object, he had not hesitated to adopt extreme measures; and that, suspending the exercise of the penal law of 1835, which prohibited the presentation of slave recaptured and exported after they have reached the estate of the purchaser, he had determined to persecute such slaves wherever he found them, and to free them from their holders."

Lord Clarendon referred to this in a congratulatory style, and informed Parliament "that the Spanish Cabinet had received a communication from the Royal Council, recommending that the Captain General should be invested with the more ample authority required, that he may more efficiently oppose the evil. And Lord Clarendon says, moreover, that it is the first time that such a recommendation had issued from the Council."

Of all this the letter-writer of the Union bitterly complains. He denounces the policy of hunting up and liberating the Africans illegally brought into the island, as unjust to the planters, although they bought them, knowing them to be free men. He denounces Great Britain for urging such a policy; and the American People are called upon by the Washington Union, to sympathize with him in his abhorrence of her conduct in thus laboring with her ally to restore to Freedom the natives of Africa who have been imported into Cuba and enslaved, in violation of law and treaty obligations! We presume they will find nothing in such a state of facts to incite them to embark in a warlike crusade in behalf of Cuban Slavery.

In the same number of the Union we find the following information, contained in a letter from the Havana correspondent of the London Daily News:

"SLAVERY IN CUBA."

"Havana, Oct. 22.—The new system of apprenticeship, or voluntary labor, which it is generally understood will be adopted for Cuba, will be a legalized Slavery; which, once established, neither the philanthropy of England and France, nor the combined civilization of the United States, will be able to effect its abolition. The restrictions which were brought to bear upon the planters of the British West Indies will not be practicable or effective in Cuba. The violence, the fraud, the treachery, and the moral degradation of the negro, and the moral degradation of the white man, will be made to Asiatic emigrants. They are to come to an Australia or a California—a land of gold, 'twining' with milk and honey, and to have cabins and land of their own. They are to find the fulfillment of the promise in being sold, like other chattels, without any guarantee of protection, after the lapse of seven years' servitude."

The desire to get their "money's worth" for the limited period, causes the master to make but scant provision for the wants of the laborer, while his heart is insensured to the almost extent of possible human endurance; and if not performed, stripes and blows are administered *ad libitum*. If death ensues in consequence of this treatment, as has been the case already in several instances, the charge of malicious conduct against the dead, covers the sin of the living murderer. Slavery, as it exists here now, can be mitigated and restricted by energetic British action at Madrid; but with Slavery, as it will be under the new name, there will be no power to reach and check the abuse of the system. It is said this secret convention between England, France, and Spain, for the freedom of Cuban negroes and other concurrent interests, is to be approved and in operation in the month of February next. Already large preparations are making for bringing natives from Africa. One instance of this has been obtained from Madrid, which has been approved by France and England, to bring 30,000 'voluntary apprentices' from the coast of Africa. Smaller operators, for in all, 35,000 more, are at work, not waiting for the formal announcement of the Governments. And this is but as a drop to the ocean, in proportion to the anticipated action of the speculators."

Reference is made to "Asiatic emigrants." When were they imported, or are they to be imported? From time to time we have seen notices in the newspapers, of plans for bringing Chinese laborers into Cuba. Still, in this letter, which the Union relies upon as proof conclusive of the alleged scheme for Africanizing Cuba, we can find nothing bearing directly upon it. An allusion is made to "the new system of apprenticeship," but no explanation is given of the nature of this system, or as to who are to be the subjects. "It is said"—that convenient authority for things guessed at—is the only authority offered by this letter, in support of the existence of "a secret convention" between England, France, and Spain, "for the freedom of Cuban negroes, and other concurrent interests." It is well known, that Great Britain, after the emancipation of the slaves in her West India Islands, undertook to supply the resulting deficiency of labor by the importation of Coolies from the East Indies, and natives from Africa, who were to be held to service under the same law as the natives of her own colonies. We are not aware that the Union assigned such a policy as intended to Africanize the British West Indies, or as an unjustifiable interference in the affairs of this hemisphere. Nor has it questioned hitherto the right of Great Britain to form treaties with Spain for the prohibition of slave-importation into Cuba. Now, suppose this should turn out that Spain has at last been induced to adopt a system looking to the emancipation of her Cuban slaves, connecting with it a policy similar to that pursued by England, for supplying the consequent deficiency of labor, by importation from Africa or the East Indies, or both—does her conduct furnish a case for the interposition of the American Government? Has not a right to do what England has done, without being questioned by us? We may deprecate the policy, as unfavorable to certain classes of our own people, but the extension of Slavery, as because it may not be exactly in accordance with the views of the slaveholders of the United States, or because the scheme of importing free laborers into the colony, to labor on contract, may be fraught with suffering and cruelty, as well as disastrous in an economical point of view, as was alleged by the Abolitionists of Great Britain in relation to the same policy, when adopted by that country. But the question remains—What right does this Government have to interfere, by force of arms, to arrest this system of emancipation and apprenticeship?

It is obvious that the Union is talking a good deal at random; and we fear that the Administration, in its excessive anxiety to please the Slave Power, may place the country in a position on those affairs, at once disgraceful and untenable.

THE ERA AND ITS CONTEMPORARIES.

We fully appreciate the importance of the State papers devoted to the cause of Freedom, and would do nothing to injure their interests. They are essential to State organization, and to intelligent concert of action among our friends. Again and again have we insisted upon the duty of giving them a vigorous support, and at no time have we magnified the Era at their expense. That the establishment and extended circulation of our paper have not interfered with them, but rather subverted their interests, is proved by the fact that since its commencement in the District, there has been an unprecedented multiplication of kindred papers. In view of these facts, we had hoped that the Era might be suffered to pursue its course without opposition from the "local press." The obstacles in its way have always been quite serious enough. In a slaveholding District it can, of course, expect no adequate patronage. If excluded from State support, what has it to rely upon? Then, there are the Weekly Tribune, Whig and Anti-Slavery, and the Evening Post, Democratic and Anti-Slavery, each furnished at \$1 a year, while the Era is \$2 a year, or \$1.50 to clubs. Competition of this kind it is hard to contend against, especially in communities Democratic or Whig in their party sympathies. Had we put down the Era to the same price, we might have contrived to keep its head above water, but where would have been the "local Anti-Slavery press?" How could it have withstood this undermining process?

Notwithstanding all this, we are pained to observe every year, when we are trying to renew our list, efforts in several quarters, to restrict this operation. That scarcely any of our editorial brethren should notice our prospects, or give us a kindly greeting, although always prompt to commend to their readers such papers as the Tribune and Post, on the one of a new volume, we do not make a subject of complaint, but when open appeals are made to our subscribers, as we have lately seen, not to renew their subscriptions, but to reserve them for the State papers, we think that is unkind. Why place the interests of the "local press" and the Era in conflict? Why not let alone, when, without trespassing upon the rights of our contemporaries, we are engaged in the work of renewing our subscriptions?

Surely, that is not the time to tell people that the Era, though an excellent paper, is quite unimportant compared with the local papers; and that if they cannot take two papers, by all means to prefer their own State paper. Certainly, we have said so, in all sincerity; but we did not think that at the very moment when about to renew our entire list, which is next in difficulty to beginning a paper, our so-called advice would be quoted against us, as to alienate our subscribers. Such appeals may be successful in reducing our list, but subscription thus alienated will probably be lost to the Anti-Slavery press altogether.

Will our friends pardon us for this first and last allusion to a painful matter? We cannot, we will not, have any other than fraternal intercourse with those engaged in the Cause of Freedom.

We have made the foregoing remarks, not to assail any one, but simply in justice to ourselves. We would sooner retire from the field of action than be regarded as the competitor, rather than the coadjutor, of the Anti-Slavery Press.

The following account of the capture of the city of Shanghai was written by an intelligent American, long resident there, to his friend in New York, who furnished it to the Commercial Advertiser for publication.

SHANGHAI, Sept. 15, 1853.

We awoke on the morning of the 7th, and heard that there had been a great disturbance in the city. I started, with a companion, at about 7 o'clock, A. M., to satisfy myself as to what had taken place, and found that a riot had very quietly been effected during the night. The Taotai was a prisoner, and the place in the undisputed possession of a mob, who had taken possession of the city, and such people by their criminal badges. The district magistrate, who was personally unpopular, was the only man killed, so far as I can learn, by the insurgents. The guard at

SOMORA AND THE "FILIBUSTERS."

The California states that several parties, acting in concert, have started from California for Sonora. Their plan is, to secure the cooperation of as many native and foreign residents as possible, ostensibly for a war against the Apaches, and then, by a coup de main, to declare Sonora free and independent, with a view to ultimate annexation.

The California says: "There is an estimate of one hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars for new buildings, but there is no enumeration of these buildings, or any specific and detailed estimate respecting them, as is required by the charter. A great number of buildings have been constructed during the last and preceding years; and in the present condition of the burdens on the city, it is not desirable to put in the tax bill a greater sum than is absolutely needed. It will be time enough to make this appropriation when the legislative department decides that the houses shall be constructed. I have therefore omitted the one hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars from the estimate in the ordinance."

A friend at Ohio City, writes—"These are all new subscribers, save five, and belong to the best class of our citizens. If the number falls short of what would be my proportion to increase your circulation to fifty thousand, you may draw on me at three days' sight for the deficiency, and the draft shall be duly honored."

We rarely transfer to our columns any compliment paid by a contemporary to the Era, but the following, from the New York Evening Post, is so cordial and graceful that we hope our readers will pardon us for reprinting it.

THE NATIONAL ERA.—We have pleasure in inviting attention to the new prospectus of this independent and attractive paper. The Era will commence its eighth volume on the 1st of January next. It is the only paper that has ever sustained itself at Washington legitimately—that is, independent of party obligations and party patronage; and it is the only paper at Washington that has ever ventured to discuss and denounce the institution of slavery. These facts give the Era a character and a history. They raise it to the dignity of an institution, and though we cannot always agree in its policy, yet we are free to say that there are few institutions of which the country has more reason to feel proud. We wish it a future success, even more triumphant than that which has crowned the first seven years of its career.

WHAT MEANS THIS?—The Washington letter-writer, who has a peep at the reports of the various Departments in advance, announces that Col. Manypenny, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, is in favor of organizing a Territorial Government in Nebraska, whether the Indian titles are extinguished or not. What means this? Has the Council changed his ground, or has he been misunderstood hitherto?

HEBREW AND AMERICAN SLAVERY.—We find that the very able article of Judge Jay, on Hebrew Servitude, meets with warm commendation among our subscribers, and has attracted much attention. The New York Evening Post speaks of it in high terms, and the editor of the District Daily News says that it is the clearest, most accurate account of the conditions under which slaves were allowed to be held under the Old Testament, that he has read.

KOSZTA arrived at Boston a few days since, and was warmly received by his friends, with out any public demonstration, of course.

JOHN MITCHELL, the Irish patriot, arrived in the Prometheus, on the 29th ult., from California. His Irish friends were out in full force to do him honor.

ALABAMA.—The Message of Gov. Collier to the Legislature of this State occupies nearly sixteen columns of the State Sentinel. A large portion of it is devoted to the subject of internal improvements, the Atlantic and Pacific railroad, the Code of Alabama, Banks and Banking, Education, Elections by the People, Sale of Slaves, &c.

He strongly favors the construction of railroads, and advises the Legislature to ask of Congress liberal grants of land for that purpose. The following sentence strikes us as exhibiting tardy progress in this State: "Thirty-four years have elapsed since Alabama became a member of the American Confederacy, and still the United States is the proprietor of almost, if not quite half the lands within her borders."

He favors the Pacific railroad project, and thinks it deserves the "patronage of Congress, unless policy forbids its bestowment." He recommends the appointment of a superintendent of instruction, and that each county or town be permitted, with the approbation of the voters therein, to levy a reasonable tax in aid of common schools. He also recommends that the Judges of the Supreme Court, Chancellors, Attorney General, &c., be elected by the people. In regard to the exemption of slaves from sale by execution, he says:

"The Code very properly provides that slave children of ten years of age, at judicial sale, and some other sales, be offered with their mothers, where the defendant in execution, &c., is the owner both of the mother and child; and that, at such sales, slaves must be offered, and if practicable, sold in families. But it is allowable for either of the parties in interest to impair, to a great extent, these salutary enactments. These provisions, in my judgment, should be absolute, at least as it respects mothers, and children of ten years of age and under, and husband and wife, where the latter relation is admitted by the owner of the slaves. These relations which moral duty requires us to respect, and it can be no violation of policy to conform municipal law to good morals. It is universally conceded that slaves are regarded as beings with the moral feelings, it is true, often obtuse, but susceptible of improvement. The husband and wife generally cherish affection for each other, and the mutual attachment of mother and child are usually strong. The mother is not always a wise counselor, but she must be presumed to be the most constant and sincere child has. Let, then, the latter enjoy this parental oversight, and at such sales it may be the better prepared by good principles and industrious habits to act its part afterwards."

He further declares the question of exempting slaves from execution, as a question of expediency merely. "Our interest in slaves," he says, "cannot be regarded in all respects similar to that we enjoy in mere beasts or inanimate chattels," and "no enactment of such political importance should be passed without an assurance that popular opinion will sustain it, lest, by reaction, injurious consequences may result."

The Message is moderate in its tone, and pays a decent respect to the injunctions of the Baltimore platform, respecting the agitation of the Slavery question.

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the gate, and some of the Taotai's men, received a few scratches; but otherwise, strange as it may appear, a city having 200,000 inhabitants was "imperial" at night, and "rebel" on the following morning—no one anticipating the coup d'état, and only one or two men hurt in its execution. Truly, the Chinese are a wonderful people!

THE MATE OF THE AMERICAN SCHOONER FLINT, commanded by Captain Gibson, who was so vilely treated by the Dutch authorities in Batavia, is in prison at the same place, on charges that have been proved unfounded by the courts of that country. A correspondent of the Tribune says that his case has been brought to the notice of both Mr. Crampton and Mr. Marcy. He is an Englishman by birth, but an American sailor by choice. Mr. Marcy, it is said, refuses to interfere, because he is an Englishman; Mr. Crampton, because, at the time of his seizure, he was in the American service. If this be true, neither functionary represents the humanity of his country. As he is an American sailor, was serving on board an American vessel when he was arrested, and was in fact "domesticated" under our stars and stripes, Mr. Marcy, even if no "political capital" is to be made out of it, ought to look into the case; and if he is unjustly imprisoned, demand his release. There will be little inducement for foreigners to enlist in our naval or mercantile service, if they are to be regarded as outcasts from its protection.

MR. BELMONT, the naturalized citizen, appointed Charge d'Affaires at the Hague, was required by his Dutch Majesty to appear at his Court in livery. Mr. Belmont, referring to the instructions of his Government, refused, intimating that if he could not present himself in the dress of an American gentleman, he was accordingly received. He is a better American, decidedly, than Ex-Governor Vroom. Vroom, we apprehend, is one of your regular Northern Hunter politicians, and has lost the faculty of standing erect.

EX-GOVERNOR JARED W. WILLIAMS has been appointed by the Governor of New Hampshire, to fill the vacancy occasioned in the Senate of the United States by the death of Mr. Atherton.

LITERARY NOTICES.

LECTURES TO YOUNG WOMEN. By Wm. G. Elliot, Jr., Boston: Crosby, Nichols & Co. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Pa. avenue, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Elliot has only to be known, for any book has been sent to be received with every sentiment of high respect. To teach young ladies has ever been a delicate and difficult task. Those topics about which they need the best advice are too often just the topics which, by the conventions of society, must not be spoken of to them. The subjects of these lectures are Home, Duties, Education, Follies, and Woman's Mission; and Mr. Elliot has treated them with great beauty of style and true refinement, and purity of thought and expression.

THE CHRISTIAN FATHER'S PRESENT TO HIS CHILDREN. By J. A. James. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers. For sale by Gray & Ballantyne, 7th street, Washington, D. C. 1 vol.

Some idea of the impression this book has made in England, upon English parents, may be obtained from the fact that this is printed from the seventeenth London edition.

The author has embodied in this volume his own parental wishes, objects, and pursuits. Much that is here written has been the subject of his converse with his children. It is not intended for children below the age of fourteen; to such the book will be attractive, from the graceful style in which it is written, and the numerous anecdotes, illustrations, and extracts, which relieve it from all sense of fatigue and unvarying monotony.

HOPE FLETCHER, by Mrs. Mary Andrews Denison. New York: Harper & Brothers. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Washington, D. C.

We have here the lively picture of a country girl, who commences her married life in the city. These home scenes begin with childhood, and are drawn from the progress of life, and to the life.

THE CLAREMONT TALES: OR, Illustrations of the Beatitudes. New York: Carter & Brothers. For sale by Gray & Ballantyne, 7th street, Washington, D. C. 1 vol.

This is one of the happy efforts of the present day, to teach children the most important truths in the most attractive method; and for this, we think our Saviour has set us an example, in the use of Parables, which are the shortest and best of all illustrations of religious truth.

GOD WITH MEN: OR, Footprints of Providential Leadership. By Samuel Ogden. Boston: Crosby, Nichols & Co. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Washington, D. C. 1 vol., pp. 269.

Mr. Ogden has written a book, which, in "the deluge

